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## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hires New Landscape Designer at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge**



*Robert Primeau, DRIWR's Landscape Designer. Photo Credit: USFWS*

**Grosse Ile, Mich.** –Robert Primeau, an alumna of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, has been hired as the new Landscape Designer at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR). Robert brings a strong academic background with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science and a master's degree in Landscape Architecture. Robert also brings practical work experience as an environmental technician for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, a project designer for the Clara Ford Prairie Garden at the University of Michigan, and a project manager of school playground and landscape improvements for Focus: HOPE. Robert's responsibilities will include construction management and coordination for major projects on the Refuge Gateway, including a

boat dock and fishing pier, two boardwalks as part of the trail network, technical assistance for some other projects to ensure integration with site's master plan, and some grant writing, reporting, and financial coordination. The staff at DRIWR is excited to have Robert as a part of their dynamic and passionate team.

The DRIWR extends along the shoreline of the Detroit River and western Lake Erie, and focuses on conserving, protecting, and restoring habitats for 30 species of waterfowl, 117 kinds of fish, and over 300 species of birds. Unique habitats being managed in the refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and riverfront lands. To date, 3,797 acres of Essex Region Conservation Authority lands and 981 acres of City of Windsor lands have been added to the Canadian registry of lands for the refuge, and 7,897 acres of Michigan Department of Natural Resources lands have been added to the U.S. registry of lands that already includes 5,834 acres of lands owned and/or cooperatively managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. When totaled between Canada and U.S., 18,509 acres of land in southwest Ontario and southeast Michigan are now being managed collaboratively for conservation and outdoor recreation in the spirit and intent of the 2001 Conservation Vision and the DRIWR.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, and dedication and commitment to public service. The DRIWR has been designated one of 14 priority urban refuges throughout the country charged with bringing conservation to cities and making nature part of everyday urban live because urban areas are where 80% of all U.S. citizens now live. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) or [www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river/).

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